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Agency of Human Services

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Residents of Burlington,

Vermonters have benefited from community water fluoridation since 1952, when Burlington became the first community to fluoridate their public water system. Tooth decay has declined and costs for dental care reduced dramatically, simply by drinking water fortified with the cavity protection that fluoride brings.

The Vermont Department of Health endorses water fluoridation as a safe and effective dental public health measure. As a preventive measure, it is the single most important commitment that a community can make to the oral health of its residents.

Vermont leads the nation for children with Medicaid insurance getting regular dental care. Although it sounds impressive, in Chittenden County this adds up to 44 percent of children using Medicaid that receive regular dental care. Fifty six percent of children with Medicaid insurance do not receive regular dental care. Community water fluoridation is the only way for these children to receive continual protection from tooth decay.

Community water fluoridation was proclaimed one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, because it benefits everyone, especially those without access to regular dental care. It is the most effective way to prevent one of the most common childhood diseases – tooth decay.

Fifty years of scientific research have consistently confirmed that fluoridating community water systems poses no health risks to infants, children, adults and senior citizens. The many dental, medical and public health studies have been reviewed and evaluated by experts and endorsed by hundreds of national and international health organizations.

I urge the City of Burlington to continue water fluoridation as an essential foundation of dental care, improving the oral health of everyone over a lifetime.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Jarris MD, MBA
Commissioner
